declare performance of 'Mahashradh' in Jammu instead of valley in view of threats from terrorists; and

(b) if so, whether Government will ensure that they are able to return to valley at least for such acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to provide security cover to all citizens, including Kashmiri Pandits. This year the State Government had assured security cover to Panun Kashmir, an organization of Kashmiri Pandits in order to enable them to perform 'Mahashradh' in the Valley but despite the assurance given by the Government, they chose to perform 'Mahashradh' in Jammu (Akhnoor) on August 6, 2006. Many religious functions such as Kheer Bhawani Mela and Amarnathji Yatra held in the Valley every year in which Kashmiri Pandits take part in large numbers Government takes all measures for their security and safety.

Compensation to farmers for laying mines

*388. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full and final compensation have since been paid to all the eligible farmers whose lands were used for laying mines etc., by the army on the Indo-Pak border in J&K especially in Ranbir Singh Pura Sector;

(b) whether any claims are still pending; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 72,59,56,394/- has been placed at the disposal of the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir (concerned Deputy Commissioners) for payment to the affected farmers for occupation of lands in the border areas in the districts of Jammu, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur, in connection with Operation Parakram. Out of the above amount, Rs. 23,01,10,550/- is for occupation of land in Tehsil Ranbir Singh Pura. No claim for compensation in this regard is pending in the Ministry.